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ACTION ARA-00

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 AID-00 INR-05 SS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 SSO-00 L-03 AMAD-01 PM-10 PA-01 INRE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5945
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
USIA WASHDC 2833

Dept. of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Dir.
 Release () Excise () Deny Declassify
Date 2/27/02 Exemption _____

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USIA FOR AR-ZUCKERMAN, RONEY

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR

TAGS: CASC, PGOV, PREL, NU, CS
SUBJECT: LA PENCA REPORT FINGERS JOHN HULL AMONG
OTHERS

1. (U) LOCAL PRESS REPORTS THE EXISTENCE OF A FIFTY-TWO PAGE PUBLIC MINISTRY PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE LA PENCA INCIDENT. THE REPORT, DELIVERED DECEMBER 26 TO SAN CARLOS JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES (WITH COPIES ALSO SENT TO THE SUPREME COURT), NAMES JOHN HULL AND FELIPE VIDAL AS THE INTELLECTUAL AUTHORS OF THE MAY 30, 1984 ATTEMPT ON EDEN PASTORA'S LIFE. IT RECOMMENDS HULL AND VIDAL BE CHARGED WITH MURDER. IN THE BOMBING, THREE PERSONS DIED (INCLUDING US CITIZEN LINDA FRAZIER) AND SEVERAL WERE INJURED.

2. (U) THE REPORT NAMES A FOREIGNER USING THE ALIAS PEER ANKER ANSEN (AKA AMAC GALIL AND AHMED KHALIL) AS

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HAVING CARRIED OUT THE ATTACK. ANSEN ALLEGEDLY WAS

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HIRED TO KILL PASTORA BY THE MEDELLIN CARTEL "THAT SUPPORTED HULL, FELIPE VIDAL AND HIS CUBAN MOVEMENT." THE INITIATIVE BEHIND THE CARTEL'S ACTION CAME FROM HULL AND VIDAL, ACCORDING TO THE REPORT. HULL WAS ACQUAINTED WITH CARTEL FIGURES DUE TO THE SUPPOSED USE OF HIS FARM AS A TRANSSHIPMENT POINT FOR DRUGS (AND ARMS). THE MOTIVE BEHIND THE ATTEMPT ON PASTORA'S LIFE, THE REPORT SAYS, INVOLVED HULL'S AND VIDAL'S BELIEF THAT COMANDANTE CERO WAS A COMMUNIST AND WAS CAUSING PROBLEMS FOR THE "CONSOLIDATION" OF THE SOUTHERN RESISTANCE FRONT.

3. (U) THE REPORT FURTHER ALLEGES THAT ROBERT OWEN, IDENTIFIED AS WORKING FOR ADOLFO CALERO AND BEING A COURIER FOR OLIVER NORTH, KNEW OF THE PLAN. IT IS ALSO ALLEGED THAT AN EFFORT WAS MADE TO "DISORIENT" THE INVESTIGATION IN ORDER TO PROTECT OLIVER NORTH'S RESISTANCE AID OPERATION. IN THIS VEIN, THE REPORT CHARGES THAT THE ORIGINAL OIJ INVESTIGATORS MAY BE GUILTY OF "NON-FULFILLMENT OF THEIR DUTY." THE REPORT DISCARDS THE POSSIBILITY OF CIA INVOLVEMENT DUE TO THE EXISTENCE OF US LEGAL RESTRICTIONS AGAINST ASSASSINATIONS.

4. (C) COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THIS REPORT HAS BEEN LEAKED TO THE PRESS, IT IS NOT A PUBLIC DOCUMENT. WE SUSPECT ITS LEAKING IS INTENDED TO SHOW THAT THE GOCR HAS NOT ABANDONED ITS INVESTIGATION AND MAY HAVE BEEN IN RESPONSE TO PRESSURE FROM THE COSTA RICAN JOURNALISTS' ASSOCIATION FOR A NEW INVESTIGATION. IN THE PAST YEAR, THE JOURNALISTS, WHO WERE CRITICAL OF THE PREVIOUS INVESTIGATION, HAVE TWICE TRIED TO GET

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THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY TO INVESTIGATE LA PENCA. THE ASSOCIATION HAS ALSO RECEIVED THE SUPPORT OF THE NATIONAL RECONCILIATION COMMISSION IN ITS EFFORT TO PRESS FOR WHAT IT WOULD REGARD AS A FULLER ACCOUNTING. ALTHOUGH THIS ISSUE AGAIN HAS COME TO PUBLIC ATTENTION AS THE ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN ENTERS ITS FINAL MONTH, WE DO NOT SEE ANY OBVIOUS IMPLICATIONS FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION.

5. (U) COPIES OF THE ARTICLES ARE BEING FAXED TO

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